

Montana Board of Public Education
Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council
Treasure State Adviser

News on Issues in Preparation, Licensure and Professional Development of Elementary & Secondary Educators in Montana.

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CSPAC

2004-2005 Membership

Chair:

Gloria Curdy, Library Media Specialist, Missoula

Vice-Chair:

Scott McCulloch, Teacher, Billings

Charla Bunker, Teacher, Great Falls

Melodee Smith-Burreson, Teacher, Missoula

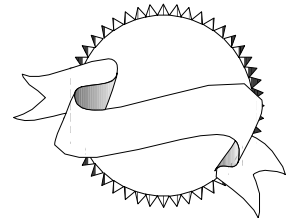
Dr. Douglas Reisig, School Administrator, Missoula

Dan Villa, School Trustee, Anaconda

Dr. George White, Higher Education, Billings

Introducing the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, created by the 1987 legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The Council makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education regarding certification issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for Montana educators.



Advisory Council Members and Staff (from left to right): seated – **Dr. George White**, Dean of Education, Montana State University-Billings; Chair **Gloria Curdy**, Library Media Specialist, Missoula; **Charla Bunker**, Teacher, Great Falls; **Jennifer Marsicano**, CSPAC Administrative Assistant; **Melodee Smith-Burreson**, Teacher, Target Range Elementary School Missoula; standing - **Dr. Douglas Reisig**, Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary School District; Vice-Chair **Scott McCulloch**, Teacher, Billings; **Steve Meloy**, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education; **Dan Villa**, School Trustee, Anaconda; **Peter Donovan**, Administrative Officer, CSPAC.

A Note From the CSPAC Chair

Greetings Fellow Educators:

Monitoring educator certification, standards and practices for the Board of Public Education is an awesome task for our council. Add the complications involved in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also called the "No Child Left Behind Act" by the White House, and all our responsibilities multiply and blur.

The CSPAC maintains a steadfast commitment to maintaining high standards for Montana's educators in spite of funding challenges and movements to lower standards for educators. CSPAC is working to develop policy recommendations to help ensure that schools in Montana will be able to continue to recruit and retain high quality educators for our children.

The primary CSPAC goal for 2004-2005 will be to study and understand the elements of ESEA that affect certification standards and practices. From that investigative process, CSPAC will formulate analyses and recommendations for actions on certification issues, such as:

1. Education Professionalism
2. Alternative Certification Avenues
3. Monitoring Programs and Potential Opportunities
4. Retention/Recruitment/Preparation of Education Personnel

The CSPAC meets quarterly and we welcome your input and interest in our deliberations. Please contact the CSPAC office to request meeting agendas or to learn more about our research reports on topics ranging from teacher mentoring to studies on the supply and demand of teachers in Montana.

Sincerely,

Gloria Curdy

Chair, CSPAC

CSPAC Appoints Committee Chairs & Identifies Areas of Responsibility

The CSPAC utilizes a committee system to organize projects and to set priorities. Listed below are brief descriptions of the committees and their areas of responsibility:

Executive Committee, Gloria Curdy, Chair

Purpose: The Executive Committee organizes meeting agendas, runs the meetings and acts on behalf of the CSPAC when issues come up in the interim between meetings.

Areas of Responsibility: CSPAC Executive Committee, agendas, organizing and leading meetings.

Pre Professional Preparation and Development Committee, Dr. George White, Chair

Purpose: The PP&D Committee initiates studies and makes recommendations on pre-licensure training and education requirements for teachers, administrators and specialists.

Areas of Responsibility: Teacher Testing, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Native American Certification, Outcome assessment, Title II, Teacher preparation standards, Online degrees, National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Professional Development and Renewal Committee, Charla Bunker, Chair

Purpose: The PD&R Committee initiates studies and recommendations on licensure renewal training and education requirements for teachers, administrators and specialists.

Areas of responsibility: Mentoring, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II, online degrees.

Licensure and Endorsement Committee, Dr. Douglas Reisig, Chair

Purpose: The L&E Committee initiates studies and makes recommendations in the areas of licenses and endorsements.

Areas of responsibility: Teacher testing, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, outcome assessments, Title II, online degrees and Paraprofessional.

Professional Ethics Committee, Scott McCulloch, Chair

Purpose: The PE Committee initiates studies and makes recommendations on ethical standards and professional practices on policies for denial, suspension and revocation of licenses.

Areas of responsibility: Teacher testing.

Research Projects Oversight Committee, Dan Villa, Chair

Purpose: The RPO Committee develops procedures for the request, review and prioritization of research projects. The committee monitors the research fund budget, ongoing research projects and related follow-up activities.

Areas of Responsibility: Teacher testing, Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Montana Commission on Teaching Committee, Melodee Smith-Burreson, Chair

Purpose: The Montana Commission on Teaching (MCT) addresses issues critical to Montana's teaching profession in accordance with the partnership agreement between CSPAC and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF).

Areas of Responsibility: MCT and Teacher testing.



CSPAC Examines Tiered Licensure for Educators

The CSPAC is studying the potential implications of developing an advanced tiered licensure system for educators in Montana. The purpose of this research is to determine the feasibility of implementing a progressive tiered licensure system for educators in Montana. The licensure system would be designed to recognize educators for achieving professional growth benchmarks (tiers) at various points in their careers as professional educators.

Tiered licensure models are being implemented throughout the United States as a primary strategy to recruit and retain high quality educators in public schools. To date, forty-one states have adopted some form of multiple tiered certification or licensure for teachers. Thirty-three of these states have developed, or are in the process of developing, performance assessments for movement from one tier to the next.

2004-2005 CSPAC Meeting Calendar

<i>September 16-17 MSU-Billings w/ Deans Council Billings</i>		
<i>Jan. 20</i>	<i>Higher Education Complex</i>	<i>Helena</i>
<i>March 9-10</i>	<i>Higher Education Complex w/ BPE</i>	<i>Helena</i>
<i>July 7</i>	<i>Higher Education Complex</i>	<i>Helena</i>

How to Place Issues Before the Council

Educational organizations, agencies or individuals may make a request in writing for the Council to consider issues affecting the certification of teachers, administrators, or specialists in Montana. Certification issues include: teacher preparation; standards for certification; standards for professional practices and ethical conduct; and policies on suspension, revocation and denial of certificates.

All requests must include the following information:

- The name of the individual or organization submitting the request.
- A statement of the nature and extent of the issue or concern.
- A summary of the proposal or recommendation.
- A statement of the certification rules or policies, which would be affected if the proposal were implemented.
- A synopsis of the effects implementation would have on K-12 certification practices in Montana.
- A list of organizations, which support the proposal.

All requests must be received in the CSPAC office twenty (20) days prior to a Council meeting if the item is to be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Council. Please contact the CSPAC office to request a standardized form for placing issues before the Council.

The Treasure State Adviser

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Gloria Curdy, Chair
Scott McCulloch, Vice-Chair
